

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal comprising: a period reader reading a period stored on a content medium indicating a period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served;
a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;
a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and
a server serving the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.
2. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a period thereof and wherein the server supplies said terminal with a key for unlocking the content.
3. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to a center when the present time falls within the period of time.

4. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system comprising:

a terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a period on a content

medium indicating a period of time during which [the] a content can be served by submitting a request to a center;

a present time generator for generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and

a requestor submitting a request to a center for

obtaining use of the content when said comparator judges that the

present time falls within the period of time; and

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a

key for unlocking the content when the present time falls within the period of time.

5. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the period of the content.

6. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 3, wherein said terminal further comprises second comparator comparing an

effective period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time is within the effective period of time.

7. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

a disk for storing the contents; and
an installer installing a loader for the content.

8. (ALLOWED - TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents; and
wherein said terminal further comprising:
a second comparator comparing an effective period
of time with the present time and determining whether the present time lies within the effective
period of time.

9. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer readable storage device which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;
compares the period with the present time; and
judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period .

10. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer readable storage device including both content and an interval period concerning the content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

reads the period;
generates present time data indicating a present time;
compares the period with the present time; and
judges that the present time data falls within the period or falls outside of said period.

11. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the period is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending time interval.

12. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads an interval period, stored on a disk, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

judges that the present time falls within the period or falls outside of said period.

13. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads an interval period, stored on a content medium, indicating a period of time during which content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the period of time; and

a server which serves content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the period of time.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) A sales system comprising:

a content medium storing a locked content and an interval period for the locked content;

a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls within the period;

15. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading an interval period stored on a medium indicating a serving period of time;
generating present time data indicating a present time; and
comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said
present time falls within the period of time.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:
a storer storing a content including an interval period concerning the content and a
program executed by the computer, wherein said program:
reads the period;
generates present time data indicating a present time; and
compares the period with the present time;
an accessor accessing said program; and
a server serving the content when the period is compared with the present time and
it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable storage comprising:
a content assessable by a user via a computer;
period data indicating an interval period of time during which the content can be accessed
by the user;
a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the content by the user if a
present date falls outside of the period of time indicated by the period data; and

a serving unit to serve the content when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the content.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the period; and

serves the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said period.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a period stored on a medium indicating an interval period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period; and